



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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### United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Elko, Nevada

#### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT Wilson Mountain Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal Decision DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2013-0027-EA**

Based on the environmental assessment (EA) for the Grazing Permit Renewal Decision for the Wilson Mountain Allotment (DOI-BLM-NV-E020-2013-0027-EA), I have determined that the Proposed Action, as described and analyzed in the EA, will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required prior to my issuance of the decision.

This finding is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27) with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts as discussed in the EA and summarized below.

#### Context:

The Proposed Action focuses on livestock grazing management on 3,168 acres of public land intermixed with 1,327 acres of private land within the Wilson Mountain Allotment located on the western flank of the Bull Run Mountains in north-west Elko County. The BLM issued a Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Assessment in June 2012. The assessment reached draft conclusions that current management was meeting all applicable standards and objectives.

#### Intensity:

1) *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

The analysis identifies both beneficial and adverse impacts to wetlands, riparian zones and aquatic and avian species of concern that may arise as a result of the proposed grazing permit renewal and range improvement projects. Measures are incorporated to avoid or reduce adverse impacts from grazing, conserve habitat for sensitive species, and identify and protect cultural resources.

2) *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.*

The proposed action will have no effect on public health or safety.

*3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

The proposed grazing permit incorporates procedures for the protection and management of historic and cultural resources and other unique areas in the Wilson Mountain Allotment. No park lands, special recreation management areas, prime or unique farmlands, or wild and scenic rivers exist within the allotments. Wildlife habitat and wetlands, including springs, have been monitored and analyzed for effects of grazing against established management objectives. The analysis concluded that implementing the proposed action is expected to provide for significant progress towards and/or attainment of the riparian and wildlife habitat standards and objectives throughout the allotment as defined by 43 CFR §4180.

*4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

The analysis contained within the EA concludes that the proposed action will result in significant progress towards achievement of multiple use objectives and the Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health. Ecological conditions on the allotment have shown consistent maintenance or improvement, and conditions are expected to continue to improve under the proposed action.

BLM received no comments during the public review period of the Draft Standards and Guidelines for Rangeland Health Assessment.

*5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

Possible effects are neither highly uncertain nor do they include unique or unknown risks. The analysis is based on monitoring information, and all livestock grazing authorizations are subject to applicable procedures to prevent undue environmental harm and risk.

*6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The ten-year grazing permit includes terms and conditions to protect resources from significant adverse effects. This action does not make any commitments for BLM approval for any future actions beyond those outlined in the proposed action. All future proposed livestock management actions not described in the proposed action would continue to be subject to further consideration in accordance with BLM grazing and NEPA regulations and policies.

*7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

All resources are evaluated for cumulative impacts in the EA, and no significant impacts are identified. As a standard procedure, cumulative impacts would continue to be subject to further review as new projects are proposed, and on a site-specific basis.

*8) The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

The proposed action as described incorporates terms and conditions and requirements to identify

and protect cultural resources from adverse effects.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.*

No endangered or threatened species are known to occur within the Wilson Mountain Allotment. As discussed for special status species in the EA, the allotment does provide habitat for one candidate species (Greater Sage-Grouse) and several BLM-sensitive species of concern. The proposed action includes measures to prevent adverse impacts to these species and to conserve their habitats and is not expected to result in the listing of any species of concern.

10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The proposed action has been developed and reviewed in coordination with applicable agencies to ensure its consistency with plans and requirements of other Federal, State, and local agencies.

/s/ Richard Adams

9/13/2013

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**Richard E. Adams, Manager**  
**Tuscarora Field Office**

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**Date**

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